David Buchholz
1541 E. Edgewater Dr
Tempe, AZ 85283

FDA Commissioner
Docket No. 00N-1396 & Docket No. 00D-1598
FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

3.12.2001

Dear FDA,

I am writing to express my opposition to the FDA's new proposed rule and guidance on genetically engineered foods. Despite overwhelming consumer demand, the agency's voluntary labeling and notification proposals are totally inadequate to protect human health, the environment, and my right to know what I am eating. I fully support the following:

- All genetically engineered foods and food ingredients should be labeled so I am informed and have a choice of what to eat. Without mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. Consumers will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of these novel foods prove to be hazardous.

- Genetically engineered foods should not be assumed to be safe and should be required to be subject to mandatory pre-market safety testing. Genetically engineered foods could be toxic, could cause allergic responses, could have lower nutritional value, and could compromise immune responses in consumers.

- There should be a moratorium on genetically engineered foods until long-term studies show they are safe for human health and the environment.

- The FDA must require mandatory pre-market environmental review. Genetically engineered crops and foods could cause irreparable damage to the environment.

The proposed rules are an insult to consumers, and irresponsibly ignore strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks of genetically engineered foods. These rules appear to be a decision made at the convenience of industry, and at the expense of public health, consumer information, and the environment.

Sincerely,

David Buchholz

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David Buchholz
1541 E. Edgewater Dr
Tempe, AZ 85283

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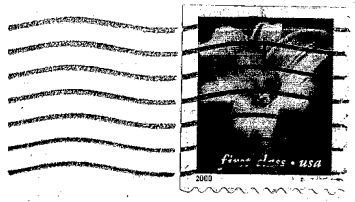

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